

*A23  
cancel*  
monitoring device 25 via the communication line 19 without the monitoring device 20 installed in the  
boiler installation facility 23.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3.

Please add new claims 4-8 as follows:

*Sub  
B1  
cancel*  
--4. A method of monitoring an operation of a thermal device, comprising:  
detecting data on operating states of said thermal device;  
storing said detected data at specified time intervals along with time of detection as  
operating state data, wherein a first number of operating state data are stored in sequence  
so that when a new operating state data is added, the oldest operating state is dropped;  
storing detected data when a failure occurs in said thermal device along with the  
time of failure;  
storing operating state data for a second number of time intervals less than said first  
number of time intervals after the failure; and  
outputting said stored data.

*B*  
5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising storing operating state data at a  
starting point at each control step.

*Sub  
B2*  
6. An apparatus for monitoring an operation of a thermal device, comprising:  
detectors for detecting operating states of said thermal device;  
a processor for receiving outputs from said detectors;  
a storage device connected to said processor for receiving data based on said  
outputs from said detectors along with a time of detecting as operating state data at  
specified time intervals, a first number of time intervals being stored so that when a new  
operating state data is added, the oldest operating state data is dropped;

*Sub B2*  
*Amended*  
*Sub C2*

said storage device also storing data when a failure occurs along with the time of failure, wherein operating state data continues to be stored for a second number of time intervals smaller than said first number of time intervals after the failure; and  
an output device used for outputting data from said storage device.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a monitoring device for receiving data from said output device.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said storage device also stores operating state data at a starting point of each control step.--

**Conclusion**

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

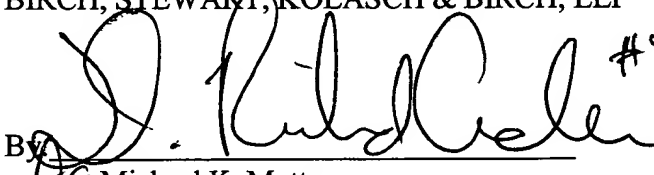
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse, Reg. No. 27,295, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.


Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110.00 is being filed concurrently herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #40,439  
Michael K. Mutter  
Reg. No. 29,680  
P. O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

 MKM/RFG/mlr

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made  
Abstract of the Disclosure